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Denver Labor Groups Deny CIA Links

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Two Denver-headquartered labor groups Friday denied reports they had received Central Intelligence Agency funds to carry on international activities.

According to reports from Washington, the two unions received CIA funds to further CIA and Government interests in Latin America and the Middle East.

Named were the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), with a membership of 166,000 in this country and Canada, and the International Federation of Petroleum and Chemical Workers (IFPCW), one of 18 International Trade Secretariats (ITS) with representation of nearly 2 million petroleum and chemical workers in 153 unions and federations of unions in 78 countries.

All Ties Denied

Lloyd Haskins, IFPCW general secretary here, categorically and emphatically denied any ties to the CIA.

In a lengthy statement, Haskins said, "The IFPCW has never knowingly accepted CIA funds, either directly or indirectly.

"It is inconceivable to us that any funds we have received from any sources could in any way be connected with CIA. Our activities in opposition to the U.S. oil companies operating around the world are obviously not in accord with U.S. foreign policy position."

The OCAW statement was short and terse. A union spokesman quoted A. F. Grospiron, OCAW international president, as stating:

"We are receiving or disbursing no funds from any other source than from the dues of our members."

Change Is Made

The spokesman said the OCAW does pay per capita fees of 2 cents a month to the IFPCW as an affiliate in the same manner in which local Denver AFL-CIO unions pay affiliation fees to the Denver Area Labor Federation and the Colorado Labor Council.

Haskins charged some of the accusations against his federation are coming from an ITS headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with which the IFPCW has a jurisdictional dispute.

He said any funds, outside the 2-cent per capita affiliation fee, coming from non-affiliated organizations are received "unencumbered with any restrictions."

Haskins said the IFPCW has received funds from such organizations as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Labor Organization—United Nations, the League for International Social and Cooperation Development

(LISCD) and the Midland Foundation.

"This funding has been approved by the international governing bodies of IFPCW and has generally been used for trade union education programs," Haskell said.